

In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

In re the Application of:

James Michael McArdle)

Serial Number: 10/631,172)

Group: 2165

Docket Number: AUS920030382US1)

Examiner: Raheem Hoffler

Filed on: 07/31/2003)

For: "Alert Flags for Data Cleaning and)

Data Analysis")

45,993

Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Number

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1540

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Sir:

We appreciate the Examiner's time today and in the last few days to conduct an interview via telephone and email. Examiner Hoffler initially contacted me to indicate that all claims were allowable, except that Claim 19 needed a recitation of a processor or processor execution to be added.

We explained that our goal for Claim 19 is to read upon memory devices, such as CD-ROMs, DVDs, "thumbdrives", flash memory cards, etc., which are produced or manufactured to include software which performs our process or method. We wish to avoid claim 19 requiring the actual execution of the software, as this would be covered instead by our computer-implemented method claims and/or our system claims.

As such, we explained that we wish for Claim 19 to be directed to the manufactured memory device containing certain program code encoded on it or by it. We believe such an item of manufacture belongs to a statutory art available for patenting, that Claim 19 and its dependent claims are tied to a particular machine (e.g. an electronic memory device) and that a physical state of that machine is changed (e.g. optically, electronically, chemically, etc., through the process of storing the software programs on or in it).

Subsequent to our discussion, we emailed a proposed change to Claim 19 to the Examiner:

19. (proposed amendment) A computer memory comprising:
a computer memory suitable for encoding software programs; and
one or more software programs encoded by said computer memory and configured to cause a processor to:
generate a set of cleaning attributes for each cleaned data record in a complete set of cleaned data records, said records each having a plurality of fields, said cleaning attributes indicating fields modified by a cleaning operation, wherein generating a set of cleaning attributes comprises performing an operation selected from a group comprising appending a set of cleaning attributes to each cleaned data record, prepending a set of cleaning attributes to each cleaned data record, distributing a set of cleaning attributes to each cleaned data record, and generating a cleaning attribute table;
receive a data feature identified within said cleaned data records for a subset of said complete set of cleaned data records;
determine a degree of correlation of said data feature to said indicated fields; and
responsive to said degree of correlation exceeding a threshold, identify said data feature as having inaccurate data.

The Examiner responded that this change would be acceptable. We thank the Examiner for his consideration of this change, and look forward to receiving a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully,
/ Robert Frantz /
Robert H. Frantz
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